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LETTER DATED 21 JULY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 21 July 1998 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahhaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. It concerns the fact that a high-level United States official entered northern Iraq in an illegal manner for purposes of interference in the internal affairs of Iraq in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Security Council resolutions relating to Iraq, all of which affirm respect for Iraq's sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 21 July 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

On 18 July 1998 Agence France-Presse reported from Abu Dhabi that David Welch, an assistant to the United States Secretary of State, had entered northern Iraq in an illegal manner by way of Turkish territory with other government officials of the United States Department of State.

This action on the part of a high-level official in the United States Administration, which comes in the context of a series of such hostile actions being taken by the United States of America against the people and Government of Iraq, is an illustration of the insistence of that Administration on interfering in Iraq's internal affairs in order to undermine its security and political stability and sunder its national unity.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq condemns in the strongest terms this illegal, unlawful and immoral act committed by senior officials of the United States Administration. That Administration is persisting in its practice of interfering in Iraq's internal affairs and is continuing to violate the Charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law and the Security Council resolutions relating to Iraq, all of which affirm respect for the country's sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity.

Condemning this reckless act on the part of the United States, we ask you and, through you, we ask the international community the following fundamental question. What is the value of the resolutions of the Security Council when a State that is a permanent member of the Council insists on not honouring them and on holding them in contempt and when it engages in the open violation of the laws of an independent Member State of the United Nations and in interference in its internal affairs?

The Government of the Republic of Iraq, strongly condemning these rash, irresponsible and unlawful actions on the part of the United States - actions that are rejected by the entire international community - calls upon you to intervene directly with the Government of the United States and to urge it to desist from its constant interference in the internal affairs of others and to honour the Charter of the United Nations, which affirms respect for the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Member States.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq